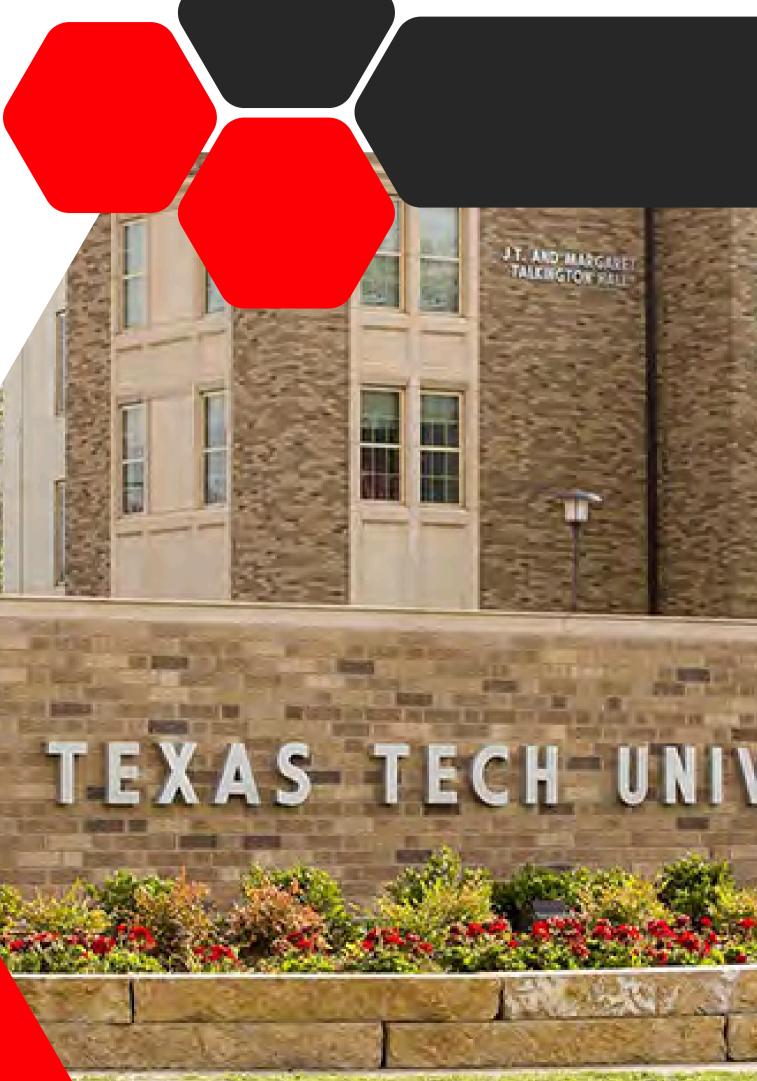
ACCESSIBILITY IS FOR EVERYONE!

CELEBRATING STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Crystal Fuqua, M.Ed. Student Disability Services Texas Tech University



This workshop is designed to equip attendees with the knowledge and tools to effectively plan and execute accessibility events on their campuses to include both students and faculty as well as the community.

Participants will leave with a tangible reference for what can work in terms of both format and content. Through examples and discussion, participants will have an opportunity to brainstorm, share ideas, and address challenges.

Additionally, strategies for engaging the broader community will be discussed as securing partnerships is key to ensuring these events are successful and sustainable.

OBJECTIVES

Crystal Fuqua, M.Ed.

WHO AM I?

I am an Assistant Director and Academic Counselor for Student Disability Services at Texas Tech University in Lubbock, TX. I am also the Coordinator for Testing Services with SDS. In my personal life, I am a wife, a daughter, a friend, a fur-baby mama, a musician, and an advocate for human rights and education.

WHY DO I WORK WITH SDS?

I get the most joy from seeing students succeed. As a former educator, helping students reach their goals is the best accomplishment! Whether it be teaching students how to advocate for themselves or assisting a student who is unsure how to navigate their way through college, I am thrilled to be able to work with students each day.



et's Network!

- What is your name?
- Where are you from?
- What's your favorite thing about your job?



FOR STUDENTS

Accessibility is so important for students with disabilities. We celebrate accessibility to give students a sense of belonging and awareness.

FOR FACULTY & STAFF

We celebrate accessibility to bring awareness to our faculty and staff about the needs of our students with disabilities and what they experience on a daily basis.

WHY CELEBRATE ACCESSIBILITY?

FOR COMMUNITY

We involve the community in our accessibility awareness by accepting donations for events and inviting them to participate in certain events.

THE HISTORY OF ACCESSIBILITY IS FOR EVERYONE! WEEK

formerly called "Disability Awareness Week"







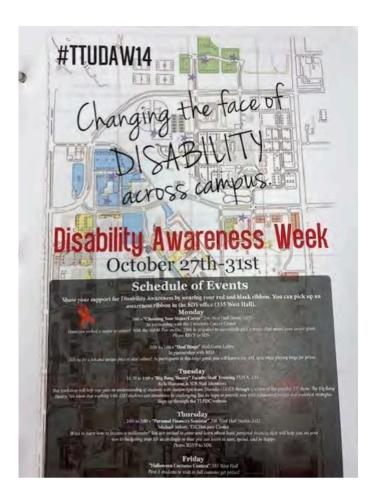
Began in 2010

Formerly all events were held on campus and only involved students Started with just the Art Show

In 2018, we began partnering with the community and involving faculty.













Informing the Community.

We publicize our events on the local news.





We advertise our events in the TTU Newspaper and on all digital boards.





Accessibility Challenge



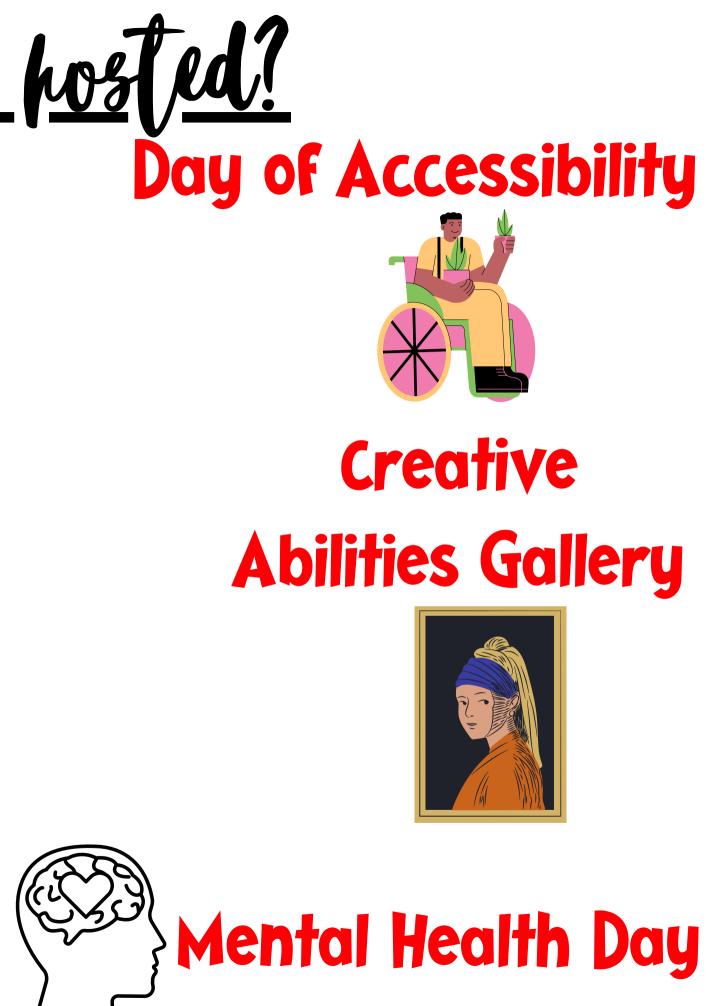
Movie Night





• OPEN •





Accessibility Challenge

- Invitation to faculty to spend an hour of their day in a motorized wheelchair
- Our office partnered with a local medical supply company to rent 4 wheelchairs
- Overwhelming response from faculty to participate
- We took the experience and feedback and shared it at Open House for faculty & staff



- Open House was held after hours (5:30pm to **7:30pm) and open to TTU faculty and staff** Managing Director spoke about our services Presented information about the **Accessibility Challenge, including pictures** and feedback from participants and their

- students
- Participants requested that their coworkers be invited to participate the following year





- spots, elevators, etc and check to make sure they were working and in good repair the SDS office to show us the pictures and get a free voucher
- Partnered with local shaved ice company to provide free vouchers for students Invited all TTU students to test the accessibility buttons on campus, find ADA parking Students were asked to take pictures of themselves completing these tasks and visit
- Through this activity, we found a couple of accessibility buttons that weren't working and an elevator needing repair









- Students were invited to come by the SDS office throughout the day to relax and enjoy some "down time"
- Our office ordered items that students could enjoy on a day of relaxation lip balm, lotion, fun stickers, and a bookmark - and handed them out to students that came in
- We set up a projector and screen in our lobby and played cartoons throughout the day
- We also set up tables and put out coloring sheets, word search puzzles, and snacks



"The cartoons were fun to watch and I really liked the bag of goodies they gave out. I was able to relax between classes."

-Jayla R. (SDS student)

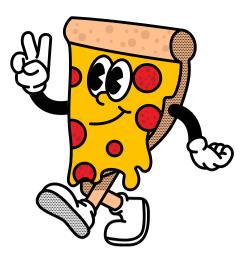


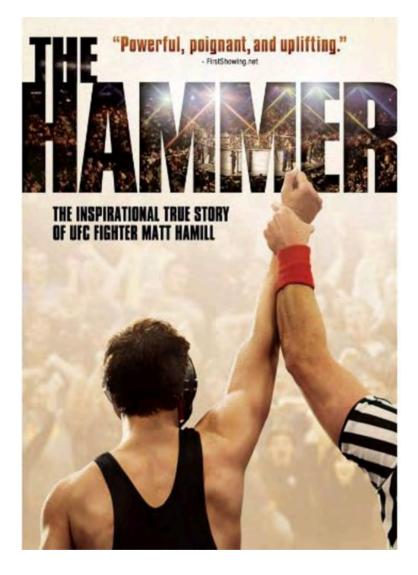






Students were invited to the SDS office from 5pm to 7pm to have pizza and drinks and watch a disability-related movie. RSVP required in order to have enough food. Open to all students.







TTU students and the community are invited to play Deaf Bingo which coincides with International Day of the Deaf. In the past, we have partnered with the Residence Hall Association and used a lobby area in one of the dorms and RHA provided food and drinks to participants. This past year, we were able to useour own newly renovated space to host Bingo and had the best turn out we've had. Snacks were provided. We have a deaf student or community member give their story before Bingo begins and then they "host" the game.

Prizes are given to players, not for winning the game but all players turn in a ticket with their names on it and we draw for winners. Because we are considered a non-profit, we cannot give prizes for winning a game.

We provide the players with a "cheat sheet" that has all of the signs on it so that if they don't know sign language, they can still play.

	Vendors	&	Pize
 Texas Tech Athletics 			
 free football tickets 			• А
 signed football 			• N
 Stars & Stripes Drive In 1 	heatre		

- free movie tickets, food vouchers
- At'l Do Corn Maze
 - 4 family packs for the maze and food
- United Supermarkets

- **2, \$25** gift cards
- Rosa's
 - **2, \$20 gift cards**
- Taco Casa
 - Taco Casa "bucks"
- The Soda Shack
 - **10, \$10 gift cards**



lamo Drafthouse • 2 free movie tickets ow We Taco'N • 4 free taco dinners Dion's Pizza • 2 free pizza vouchers Affinity Salon • free mani/pedi Say Selfie! free photo shoot for 4 Adventure Park 2 free passes to play FORE Golf • 2 free passes









SDS students are invited to come to our office on the first Friday of each month for Create & Paint. **Students are provided paint and canvases to create** art for our annual Creative Abilities Gallery. We keep the art and display it through the year in our office.





Creative Abilities Gallery.

Our favorite, and most attended, annual event held at a local theatre called the lcehouse.



We hold the gallery in conjunction with Lubbock's monthly **First Friday Art Trail.** The event brings in over 1,000 people each year and the money made from the sell of the art goes to SDS scholarships.

We showcase student art including paintings, drawings, sketches, fashion design, pottery, singing, dancing, and poetry.



We also invite the BurkTECH players to perform a skit. The BurkTECH players are Texas Tech students that are on the spectrum and are part of the Burkhart Center for Autism and Research.

A local band, Lads & Lass, provide entertainment.







Creative Abilities Gallery.

















Creative Abilities Gallery.

In 2024, we invited two artists from the community to join us at the CAG. They both created art during the show and anything of theirs that was purchased, the artists generously donated the proceeds to **SDS Scholarships**.

We plan to have more **community members join us** in 2025.



art by Beth Brown





clay throwing by Von Venhuizen

Feedback from Faculty, Staff, and Community

"What makes this so special to me is that these students are able to participate in fun events together as students that may not have much interaction otherwise. It shows that their SDS office supports them and celebrates them and that they have a place at Texas Tech." "My favorite thing about DAW is showcasing our students' wonderful talents! We get to put one of their many talents out there for the Lubbock community to see. I love seeing the pride they have in showing off and being celebrated for their work!! We have so many creative people we get to serve day in and day out." – Kyla Shannon, TC Associate Director

-Amy Taylor, Manager of S&S Drive In

"I really enjoyed the Creative Abilities Art Gallery during the First Friday Art Trail. There were some amazing art pieces there and the live performances were stellar. The art was created by students with disabilities from across campus demonstrating their own artistic flare. I had a special affinity for all the pieces that were created by the Burkhart Center students, because while they had similar subjects, they all had a unique, signature look. It is refreshing to see students with disabilities celebrated in such a way, and I can't wait for the next time we get to host FFAT again!" – Sharon Betzold, Director of TECHniques "The most impressive thing about the events of the week is how many faculty members were able to participate in the Accessibility Challenge. It gave us the opportunity to experience disabilities first hand!"

-Margaret Williams, Professor

Let's Discuss:

- What can you do on your campus to host events like these?
- What kinds of support would you need?
- Which of these events do you think is the most feasible for you to do on your campus?

